

5      **METHOD OF FAST AUTOMATIC EXPOSURE OR GAIN CONTROL IN A MOS**  
**IMAGE SENSOR**

Abstract of the Disclosure

10      In a CMOS image sensor, it is important to control the exposure time or gain. For  
varying changes in ambient light, the exposure time of the array must be changed. The present  
invention describes a method for controlling the exposure time or gain. Each of the intensities of  
the pixels in a frame is analyzed to provide an indication of the number of pixels having an  
intensity above or below multiple predetermined thresholds. This information is then used to  
change the exposure time. The magnitude of change in the exposure time is also determined by  
the number of pixels having an intensity above or below multiple predetermined thresholds, as  
the case may be.

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